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as to bring different parts of its median line successively to the centre of the apparatus, and thus a series of cells may be made upon the same slide, or any desired group of cells may be made by using a variety of unequal triangles. For common use the two triangles should be exactly alike, should be right-angled, and should have the sides adjoining the right angle one inch in length. Such pieces may be cut from sheet brass about the thickness of an ordinary glass object slide. These triangles may also be used, with the addition of a few cardboard blocks, for the purpose of decentring, in refinishing old slides that have not been accurately centred.

SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

— In the Seventh Annual Report of the American Museum of Natural History it is stated that the trustees have purchased Professor Hall's palæontological collection for \$65,000, and Mr. Squier's rare collection of antiquities from South and Central America; \$200,000 have been appropriated by the New York legislature for furnishing the magnificent new museum building on Manhattan Square. The number of visitors to the museum, still remaining in the old arsenal, averages 13,577 a week, the weekly average of visitors to the entire British Museum, embracing all the exhibition halls, being 11,574 in 1874.

— The Bulletin of the United States Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories, vol. ii. No. 1, contains A Notice of the Ancient Remains of Southwestern Colorado, examined during the Summer of 1875, by W. H. Holmes; A Notice of the Ancient Ruins in Arizona and Utah lying about the Rio San Juan, by W. H. Jackson; The Human Remains found near the Ancient Ruins of Southwestern Colorado and New Mexico, by Dr. Emil Bessels.

— Mr. Grote's Check-List of the Owlet Moths or Noctuidæ of America, Part I., Bombyciæ and Noctuelitæ (Buffalo, N. Y., pp. 28), is a very useful catalogue. It is accompanied by a photograph illustrating several new species.

— From *The Round Table and Beloit Monthly* we learn that a bill has been passed by the legislature of Wisconsin appropriating \$25,000 for printing the geological reports made during the past three years by the late Dr. Lapham and others, as well as those that shall be prepared by Professor Chamberlain, who has been appointed to complete the work. The New York *Nation* states that \$10,000 has been appropriated by the same legislature for the purchase for the university of Dr. Lapham's collections and library. It also is to print for the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences a volume of transactions in alternate years.

— Professor Angelin, a Swedish geologist and palæontologist, died at Stockholm on the 13th of February, aged seventy.

— Prof. F. V. Hayden has been elected a member of the Imperial Society of Naturalists of Moscow.

— A course of summer instruction will be given at Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine, in chemistry and mineralogy by Professor Carmichael and Mr. Robinson, while botany will be taught by Mr. F. L. Scribner. The Normal School of Natural History will hold a second session at Normal, Illinois. Professors Gastman and Forbes are the directors.

— The government of India is making arrangements for an archaeological survey of the whole country.

— Dr. A. B. Hoyt writes us from Grafton, N. H., that he saw a bullfrog nearly swallow a common striped snake about one foot long. At one time not more than five inches of the snake was out of the frog's mouth.

— Baron von Nolken, of Riga, Russia, has gone with an assistant to Bogota for the purpose of collecting and observing insects. The microlepidoptera that he collected there on his previous journey have been described by Professor Zeller, and the work will be published by the Entomological Society of Russia.

— Professor Alpheus Hyatt is now engaged in monographing distorted forms of fresh-water shells from the famous Tertiary locality of Steinheim, and desires to make comparisons with living or fossil shells from other localities. He has already obtained shells in which the normal spiral was more or less distorted or unwound, from two other localities, but wishes to obtain more extensive information, and offers in exchange suits of Steinheim shells, *Valvata* or *Planorbis multiformis*, with from four to sixteen distinct varieties. Distorted forms have been heretofore mostly found in perfectly still, inclosed basins of limited extent with no outlet. Information with regard to similar localities is also requested. Address Society of Natural History, corner of Berkeley and Boylston streets, Boston, Mass.

— Dr. Steindachner, the well-known ichthyologist, who spent some time in this country studying the fishes of North and South America, has just been appointed director of the Imperial Zoölogical Museum at Vienna, in place of Dr. Redtenbacher, lately deceased.

— Mr. M. Tompkins, of Silver Islet, Ontario, Canada, writes us that he has a female white pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchus*) with a horny crest on the mandible as in that described by Professor Snow in the NATURALIST (ix. 665). It was shot by an Indian on the north shore of Lake Superior, near the old Hudson Bay Company's Post, Fort William, Thunder Bay.

— At the last meeting of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Prof. William Everett read a paragraph from Æschylus' Prometheus referring, as he thought, to the river Zambesi, and showing that the Greeks of a period before that of Herodotus had a more intimate knowledge of the interior of Africa than they have had the credit for.

— Haeckel has studied the development of the annelid worm, *Fabricia*,

one of the family *Sabellidæ*, and finds that it passes through a true "gas-trula" condition. This is the first time that this stage of development has been traced in the higher worms. In studying these embryos he used carmine and hæmatoxylin as staining agents, the embryo being rendered transparent by glycerine.

— Prof. E. Ray Lankester, in his abstract of Haeckel's article on the Gastræa theory, actually includes the Ascidians in the Vertebrates, adding in a foot-note that "Professor Haeckel is not responsible for the classification here adopted of the Tunicata under the great group of Vertebrata."

— To elicit facts as to the migration of birds, *Forest and Stream* proposes to each one of its readers the plan of noting down, in reference to the birds of his district, observations upon some or all of the following points:—

(1.) Whether each species is resident throughout the year, is a summer or winter visitor, or only passes through in spring and fall.

(2.) With reference to each species in his locality, whether it is "abundant," "somewhat common," or "rare."

(3.) What species breed, and whether more than once in a season.

(4.) Dates of arrival, greatest abundance, nest-building, laying eggs, hatching of young, and beginning of departure of each species, and when it is last seen in the fall.

(5.) What effect, if any, upon the relative abundance of particular birds, in retarding their arrival or hastening their departure, sudden changes of the weather, storms, and "late" and "early" seasons appear to have.

(6.) Similar notes upon the appearance and movements of the quadrupeds, reptiles, and fishes of the region; and upon the times of flowering of trees and plants.

(7.) Other occurrences considered noteworthy.

Among the birds most likely to be reported upon, and which are the best exponents of the laws of migration, are the following, and to them especial attention is asked: cat-bird, blue-bird, summer yellow-bird or yellow warbler, golden-crowned thrush, redstart, barn swallow, goldfinch or thistle-bird, song sparrow, chewink or towhee-finch, bobolink, red-winged blackbird, meadow lark, Baltimore oriole or hang-nest, phœbe-bird or bridge pewee, chimney swift or swallow, kingfisher, red-headed woodpecker, woodcock, killdeer plover, Wilson's snipe, white crane, wood duck, wild geese.

If every naturalist or beginner in science would commence this spring to record such facts as these, it would induce him to observe much more closely and systematically than he might otherwise.

— It may interest our botanical readers to learn that Mr. A. W. Bennett, of London, has been for some time engaged on a translation of Thomé's *Lehrbuch der Botanik*. It will be published in the course of the present year by Messrs. Longmans, with all the original illustrations.